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## SEVERE U.S. PUPPET LOSSES HIGHLIGHTS OF MILITARY SITUATION

Significance of PLAF Successes  
in 35 Days of "Post-Tet" Wide-  
spread Attacks

- 104,000 enemy casualties, including 56,000 GIs and mercenaries from satellite countries.
- 35 battalions and mixed units of battalion size wiped out or heavily decimated.
- 1,600 planes and copters shot down or destroyed on the ground, 2,900 military vehicles including 1,440 tanks and armoured troop carriers wrecked, 530 cannons and mortars destroyed, 275 vessels and combat launches sunk or set afire, 270 depots of war supplies set ablaze or blown up.

(Abridged excerpts from April 6, 1969  
PLAF Command's Communique\*)

Pages 4-5

## GROWING POPULAR DISCONTENT IN THE U.S. OVER NIXON'S VIET NAM POLICY

THE Nixon administration had to face on April 5 last the largest wave of popular protest against the Viet Nam war since its coming to power. The demonstrators gave a warning that as long as the war lasted, such actions would continue.

At the Capitol, the "hooch-moo" enjoyed by the new governmental team has practically ended. William Fulbright reminded Nixon of his promises in 1968 when he was campaigning for president. Republican senator Hatfield remarked that the United States under Nixon had escalated both its air bombings and its ground war activities.

The whole American people have been showing their dissatisfaction with the new president's policy. The April 5 demonstrators' arm-bands carrying the figure "33,000" representing the number of American troops killed in Viet Nam according to the U.S. Defence Department, spoke volumes for the feelings of U.S. men-in-the-street. A.P.S.

Authorities have admitted that 101,000 casualties in South Viet Nam have doubled compared with the last months of 1968. They cannot have much hope in the psychological effect which is supposed to result from their own propaganda on the "de-Americanization" of the war. The embargo and disintegration of the army of Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky are obvious. That nobody thinks it can replace the American expeditionary troops. Fulbright realizes on the contrary that so long as Nixon persists in continuing Johnson's criminal policy and makes his predecessor's war his own, he will go on snatching from American families, tens of thousands of human lives and tens of billions of dollars.

The American people, as well as American politicians were or less possessed of a sense of realism as regards U.S. military power, had been expecting from Nixon a new Viet Nam (continued page 2)

## THE DRVN DOWNS THE 3,276th U.S. PLANE

On April 5, at nightfall, an American pilotless plane was shot down over Ha Tay province, west of Hanoi. This direct hit of North Viet Nam AA defence brought the total of U.S. planes and helicopters shot down between August 5, 1964 and April 5, 1969 to:

### 3,276

Plain of Reeds people supplying the front line.



# PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM HOLDS 12th PLENARY SESSION

At the 12th plenary session of the Paris conference (April 10, 1968), the representative of the Saigon puppet administration not only repeated his slanderous charges, but went to the length of demanding that the NLF "lay down its weapons" and endorse the "traitors' constitution". As for Cabot Lodge, the envoy from Washington, he again advanced old proposals which the NLF and the DRVN had so many times rejected.

NFL representative Tran Bau Kiem forcefully denounced the traitorous nature of the Saigon clique, the abominable crimes it had committed against the South Vietnamese people and directed public attention to its present pitiful disintegration. He dissected Nguyen Van Thieu's "point program" point by point and dismissed it as a proposal that the South Vietnamese people give up their legitimate struggle against aggression whereas U.S. and

satellite troops continue to occupy South Viet Nam, and that the PLANAF, the disbanded and accept the puppet rule. Mr. Tran Bau Kiem reaffirmed the South Vietnamese people's resolve to carry on their fight against U.S. aggression and highlighted the soundness and reasonableness of the NLF's proposals for the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

Taking the floor in his turn, Mr. Xuan Thuy representative of the DRVN government, condemned the Nixon Administration's ambiguous "great program for peace", "private talks", "overtures and suggestions" which the NLF has repeatedly refused. He opposed U.S. intention to lug in the Laotian and Cambodian questions to divert public attention from the clearly set goal of the Paris conference, a political solution to the Viet Nam issue. It is precisely the United States who has been denounced by the Laotian and Cambodian peoples, Mr. Xuan Thuy

emphasized. On April 7, the Laotian Patriotic Front Central Committee made public a statement strongly condemning the stepped-up war of aggression waged by the U.S. against Laos, and in March 1969 alone, the Cambodian government lodged a protest against U.S. violations of Cambodian territory.

The DRVN chief negotiator supplied concrete proofs that the US had been intensifying its war in Viet Nam, savagely massacring the South Vietnamese people and violating the sovereignty of the DRVN. In March 1969, the number of sorties made by U.S. reconnaissance planes rose by 65% compared with Feb. 1969, and the bombings carried out deep into North Vietnamese territory were also on the increase. On April 6 B-52 again raided the Northern part of the DMZ and the next day U.S. aircraft eight times dropped steel pellets and incendiary bombs on Quang Binh province.

It is precisely the United States who has been denounced by the Laotian and Cambodian peoples, Mr. Xuan Thuy

## US-PUPPETS' CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

### Further Details on the Ba Lang An Massacre of 1,000 People

FOLLOWING the April 2, 1969 statement of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Representation in the North, a special communiqué released by the Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam has supplied fresh details on the massacre of one thousand inhabitants of Ba Lang An.

The life of 11,000 people of Ba Lang An forcefully taken to the Van Thien concentration area on Thien An mountain, the communiqué said, was simply unbearable there. Pinned up in 116 dwelling houses roofed with corrugated iron or nylon sheets cordoned off by three layers of barbed wire, on a burning sand bank, permanently watched by three companies of U.S. puppet troops and civic guards and constantly harassed and threatened by two "pacification" agents' teams they had no other alternative than to rise up against this harsh treatment.

In order to stamp out their struggle the enemy moved on March 9, 4,000 of them to Co Luay. The following day, he picked out 1,000, — most of them members of former resisters' families or suspected of having connection with the NFL — and shipped them on board big trucks towed by ships to Sa Huynh, allegedly to "settle" them at Cam Ranh. Suddenly the American ships changed speed and direction and made for the open sea. Seeing that sea water was leaking in, the passengers immediately realized the dark designs of the enemy and started screaming. The Yankees cut the ropes tugging the trucks and opened fire to sink them more quickly.

Some survivors succeeded in reaching the mainland or got rescued by fishermen.

On March 12, hundreds of corpses were washed back onto the shore between Cia Da and Sa Huynh (Quang Ngai province) and even to Tam Quan gate (Binh Dinh provin. ce) further south.

(Continued page 7)

## Growing Popular Discontent in the U.S. ...

(Continued from page 1)

policy. In August last, the Republican convention in the United States adopted the "The Democratic administration's Viet Nam policy has failed militarily, politically, diplomatically, and with relation to our own people." But at that juncture, presidential candidate Nixon did not put forward any remedy to the disaster.

An issue of the White House since January 1969, the new President now has had all the time to look through his Viet Nam file and to be filled in by his military and civilian advisers, including his Defense Secretary recently back from a tour in South Viet Nam. What supernatural suggestion came out of his mind?

Was it the replacement of the word "de-institutionalization" (of the war) by the word "Vietnamization"? Was it the attempt to merge into 2 or 3 "big" parties the existing 86 South Vietnamese tiny political groupings, supposedly to consolidate and "broaden the democratic base" of the Nguyen Van Thieu Government? (In the diplomatic plan, was it the persistent shunting of the Paris conference of the crucial problem of the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam? None of these manoeuvres can get the Nixon administration out of its Viet Nam dilemma. Neither can the recent speech by Secretary of State Rogers where he repeated such

hatched formulae as "respect for the DMZ", "agreement on Laos", "strengthening of international control", and "success in the form of a 'dramatic' offer of 'private talks'." It looks simply like an abortive move, since everybody is aware that the form of negotiations has never been a decisive factor, and can never make good. U.S. had faith as to whether they agree or not to cease their aggression and withdrawal unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

It is clear that the American people are not to be easily taken in by their rulers' tricks. They know that the administration is creating a policy of "peace" and "peace" camouflage concealing the persistence of a war policy, and that the Johnson, Nixon wants to continue and step up military activities in the hope of creating a semblance of strength at the Conference table, to achieve finally the neo-colonial design of U.S. big monopoly.

The American people who have been suffering in their own flesh from this unjust and disastrous war, make it a point to raise their voices, and to demand a complete new wave of unrest within the American nation. Their action which is undoubtedly intensifying is more and more an enemy common to both peoples and to all peoples of the world: U.S. imperialism.

INDEED, they have been playing the diplomats for over ten years since the founding of their mongrel "Republic of Viet Nam," but it is only at the Paris Conference that they have been given the opportunity to perform before a truly international audience.

Thus in Paris, Pham Dang Lam and confederates are making a show of their skill. First, skill in juggling with logic: haven't they talked about "aggression of (South) Viet Nam by (North) Viet Nam"? Haven't they been trying hard to pass off their high treason (inviting U.S. troops in to be crushed by his spokenness, a South Vietnamese correspondent had introduced himself as representative of a paper that had just been closed down by the order of Nguyen Van Thieu, and that his spokesman himself had been at a loss to answer questions relating to the arbitrary arrest of Buddhist Superior Thich Thuan Minh and a Republic of Viet Nam, of number of Buddhist students.

Second, skill in distorting truth: they have been so loudly trumpeting their government's "legality" and "constitutionality" and about "democracy" and "freedom" in the arena of the Paris Conference. Unfortunately they made certain *faux pas* in their own mouths. For instance, when Lam was speaking of the "independence" of the Republic of Viet Nam," he boasted that this strange republic had sprung from the "independence" of Viet Nam created by Bao Dai — the "playboy emperor" — with the French Comptroller General, Nguyen Trieu Dan, his spokesman, did his best to justify his bombast, and to label as "Vietcong."

## Anecdotes Around Paris Conference

### When the Saigon Puppets Play the Diplomats

On another occasion, Lam bragged of Saigon's "democracy," being unaware that at the Paris conference given by his spokenness, a South Vietnamese correspondent had introduced himself as representative of a paper that had just been closed down by the order of Nguyen Van Thieu, and that his spokesman himself had been at a loss to answer questions relating to the arbitrary arrest of Buddhist Superior Thich Thuan Minh and a Republic of Viet Nam, of number of Buddhist students.

To tell the truth, Saigon diplomats' talents are so versatile that they more often than not contradict one another. At the conference table, Pham Dang Lam one day shed his crocodile tears on those so-called civilian victims of French Comptroller General, Nguyen Trieu Dan, his spokesman, did his best to justify his bombast, and to label as "Vietcong."

## THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

OVER the last few years, elections at various levels have taken place regularly in North Viet Nam despite the US air war: regional elections to people's councils in April 1967, elections to people's councils of zones, towns and provinces in April 1968; the forthcoming ones on April next will return people's councils at district and village levels. These elections have been held at scheduled time as provided for in the Constitution and the Law on the Organization of People's Councils and the Law on Committees in the DRVN. Special attention is paid to

them because they help ascertain the feeling of the people of villages, that is the level which directly carries out the State policies, and of districts and provinces which directly see the implementation of the State policies in various localities.

Our State has amended the relevant legislation in the sense of a simpler electoral procedure suitable to war conditions and of ensuring and increasing the democratic rights of the people. Appropriate methods are applied: constituencies are divided into smaller units, voters scattered because of eventual air raids can vote in their own places; supplementary ballot boxes will be available in

hospitals, maternity-homes, AA sites. The voting time will be longer than previously, but can be adjusted to war conditions. Consequently the polling may start earlier and end before the

time limit when all the voters have cast their ballots. In addition to official polling booths, there will be supplementary ones with all the same decorations and will be provided with the same air raid shelters and other facilities as the regular sites. In the hard hit areas, elections used to be conducted deep underground. This year, though the American imperialists have been anxious to end their war of destruction in the North, for vigilance's sake, the amendments to the law on wartime elections and other stipulations will still be maintained.

In the April 1967 elections to people's councils at district and village levels in Viet Nam, enemy planes struck at polling booths, but immediately after the air raids, the voting resumed as scheduled. In the 1968 elections in Ha Tinh province, enemy planes flew 150 sorties over 25 polling booths but the elections went off successfully with a 97 per cent turnout.

On election days, the scenes of Catholic, Buddhist, Kien (Vietnamese proper) and minority voters, of female workers going to the polls hand in hand with girl students, especially of young citizens voting for the first time, are a fine picture of the solidarity of the entire people and the eagerness of a people who can freely exercise their democratic rights and see themselves to

the setting up of their own power.

In 1968, the number of representatives elected to the people's councils at zone, town and provincial levels were 2,550 out of 3,431 candidates. Through the democratic process, the people have been able to choose their representatives among outstanding fighters of the anti-US movement and mass organizations, political parties, religious communities and various nationalities have selected their own representatives to elect representatives who directly take part in production and of young people has been increasing year by year. While in 1967, female representatives made up 20.3% on village, 26.4% on district and 25% on province bodies, in 1968 they rose to 27.2% on village and 35.4% on district and in 1969 35.4% on province assemblies. This shows the growing part of our women in public affairs.

Thanks to the widening of democratic rights, the relations between the people and the people's councils and administrative committees have become closer and closer. The local people's councils and administrative committees have aptly discharged their functions, successfully mobilized the people and managed production, the fighting, seen to the life of the people and fulfilled with merit the tasks entrusted to them by the State.

A Ha Noi AA unit taking part in municipal elections.

## Changes in Quan Ba Plateau

THE district of Quan Ba which covers an area of 1,200 square kilometres west of Ha Giang mountain province, has 77 per cent of its land covered with hills. It is picturesque for its majestic Ba Tien mountain peak, its sunny Dong Ha valley and its Siem river rolling silvery waters across the immense rice plain. During the resistance war against the French, Quan Ba was a revolutionary base. Now it is proud of its women who hunt pirates and minority youth who are fighting the Yankees.

Twenty years ago, Quan Ba had but a backward and lopsided economy and could hardly stand on its own feet.

New agricultural cooperatives have been set up in all its 15 villages involving 98.74 per cent of peasant households. In one year, its

inhabitants have contributed 48,000 work-days to build the Dong Ha hydro-power station which can water 250 hectares of rice and maize fields. The Ma Leng channel of 1,200 metres long irrigates terraced ricefields on mountain slopes. The formerly arid mountains waters from the Thuan Tinh mountain are now checked by the Quan Ba dam before continuing their course toward the plain. In 1966 the gross food output of Quan Ba was 27.7 per cent above norm. This year along with the powerful development of animal husbandry, its people are working hard to raise its rice yield to 2.5 tons per hectare and its maize output to 1.5 tons.

Under French rule, Quan Ba district had no handicrafts. Now it boasts 15 branches servicing agricultural products such as: Smithery,

agricultural product processing, carpentry, weaving, six workshops meet the needs of the district in firm implements. The cultivation and production of flax develops vigorously among the local nationality. Apart from serving agriculture, the Quan Ba power station supplies light to the local administrative offices and people.

Formerly the few roads possessed by Quan Ba district were narrow and bumpy. Today new roads have been built (nearly 300km in length) and the existing ones have been enlarged and enlarged to meet the requirements of a heavier traffic. At harvest time, improved handcarts full of grain and other products are seen running on the roads in the shade of fruit trees or timber trees, planting along the roadsides. The volume of

goods handled by hand was increased by 35.3 per cent in 1967. Under French rule, the Quan Ba people used to exchange their goods for salt at exorbitant rates. Now all the 11 supply and marketing cooperatives in the district are thriving a roaring business. Pack horses bring salt to all books and corners of the district, and textiles, kerosene and medicines find their way through the mountain passes to remote localities in the district.

The Quan Ba people pride themselves on their culture and arts. The youth usually perform dances and sing songs at national unity in social gatherings. The district has primary and elementary schools, a complementary education school and a school in which the minority youth study on the job. The construction of the Meo can now get books and

papers in their own script. In the district, 4,500 people in the district go to school shows how great is the change brought to the district compared with the days prior to the August 1945 Revolution when the whole district had only six literate people.

Dis-eases, especially malaria, have also been eliminated. Prophylactic hygienic measures are spread in the district. Quan Ba hospital is run by a doctor with several assistants and has its own infirmary adequately staffed by nurses and midwives.

The melodious song of wind pipe instruments now heard everywhere in Quan Ba district spurs on the enthusiasm of its 16,000 inhabitants over the achievements recorded in the district's economic and cultural life. The people of their native district.

## ENEMY HEAVY LOSSES

THE sweeping wave of Spring offensives and uprisings of our armed forces and people which broke out simultaneously on the night of February 22, 1969, has been going vigorously and continuously over the past five weeks on all the battlefields of South Viet Nam. All the People's Liberation Armed Forces, standing shoulder to shoulder with the people, have dealt repeated thunder blows at the U.S. and its puppets and satellites.

According to still incomplete figures, during 35 days of fighting, our armed forces and people:

— Inflicted on the enemy more than 101,000 casualties, including 32,000 GIs and over 4,000 Thai, Australian and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries;

— Wiped out or heavily depleted 35 battalions and mixed units of battalion size, and 160 companies of U.S., puppet and satellite troops;

— Shut down or destroyed on the ground 1,600 planes of various kinds and wrecked 2,900 military vehicles among them 1,440 tanks and armoured troop carriers; and

Sunk or set afire 273 vessels

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE PAST 35 DAYS

FOLLOWING are the outstanding features of our armed forces and people's tremendous achievements:

1. Simultaneous onslaughts, on almost all cities and towns, many of which have been attacked from five to ten times, like Da Nang, Cam Ranh, Phuoc Long, My Tho, Ben Tre, etc., constant expansion of the self-defence forces among the towns people which have become proficient in both independent and concerted fighting, able to strike with force and accuracy at enemy dens, repeatedly punishing cruel enemy agents, and closely coordinate their actions with the people in many large-scale drives for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Thung puppet administration.

2. Deadly and devastating blows at many major military bases and headquarters of the enemy puppets and satellites. In particular, eight of the nine division commands and dozens of brigade bases of the U.S. aggressors, have come under fire, many of them have suffered serious losses in successive attacks like the bases in Da Nang, Nui, Quang, Sung My, Chu Lai, Dong Du, Dai Tieng, Dong Tam etc.

3. The most striking characteristic in the past 35-day period more American troops than in forty-five days of last Spring offensive. The "American" and 25th Infantry Divisions of the U.S. took a severe beating, from the divisional command level down to brigade commands, and lost nearly half of their strength. Many brigades were crippled and their combat capacity dropped drastically. The U.S. 1st Air Mobile

and combat launches, destroyed 530 cannons and heavy mortars, blasted 70 bridges, set fire to or blew up 270 depots of war supplies containing hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition and hundreds of millions of litres of petrol.

Over the first three months of this year, our armed forces and people have:

— Taken a toll of more than 180,000 enemy troops among them 80,000 American and satellite soldiers.

— Put out of action or badly mauled 13 battalions or mixed units of battalion size, 4 armoured squadrons and 285 companies of U.S., puppet and satellite troops; and

— Shut down or destroyed on the ground 2,665 aircraft, sank or set afire 62 ships and combat launches, wrecked 3,090 military vehicles, including 2,476 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, destroyed 60 artillery pieces and heavy mortars, and burnt down 923 storages of bombs, ammunition, gasoline and other military equipment.

# SOUTH VIET NAM PLAF COM AND COMMUNIQUE (APRIL 6, 1969)

Cavalry Division and 1st Marine Division also sustained heavy casualties. So did the puppet and satellite troops. Heavy losses were inflicted on the puppet paratroop Division HQ, the 11th of the 3rd Paratroop Brigade and all the four battalions of this brigade belonging to the puppet army's general reserve, as well as the 2nd Regiment of the 23rd Division, and the 43rd Regiment of the 18th Division of the puppet army. The "Black Panther" Division of Thai mercenaries received reeling blows and had a battalions and 3 companies put out of action in a fortnight.

4. Heavy damage was done to a series of major supply bases and storages of bombs, ammunition, fuel and other military installations, and important airfields and harbours of the enemy such as the ones in Da Nang, Chu Lai, Quy Nhon, Cam Ranh, Dakto, Pleiku, Long Binh, Lien Hoa, Nha Be, Dong Tam.

Many targets in these bases came under fire two or three times. In a single attack, 90 million litres of Petrol in Quy Nhon went up in smoke.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF PLAF ACHIEVEMENTS

THESE successes have substantially tilted the balance of forces and are exerting an overriding influence on the general situation on the battlefield in a direction very favourable to us and very unfavourable to the enemy.

First the heavy setbacks suffered by the enemy early this Spring have aggravated the predicament of Abrams' "clear-and-hold" strategy which had been baffled by the revolutionary storms in South Viet Nam through one year's experimentation on the battlefield.

At a time the U.S. puppet clique were striving to make public opinion at home and abroad believe that they already have the means and ways to maintain the status quo, and are turning the tables and hurling back the liberation forces. Our Spring wave of widespread and sustained offensives and uprisings all bit with deadly accuracy almost all the cities and towns, nerve organs, airfields, storages and important communication arteries which the enemy had taken great pains to defend.

All through the five weeks when they came under repeated attacks the enemy at no time was able to go to the rescue of one another. Large-scale counter-offensives being impossible, they had to shift for themselves as best as they could and, more often than not, beat a retreat from important theatres to dig in behind urban defences. As a result, the flaws in their strategic battle array have become more critical than ever and, despite the deployment of over one million troops and big stores of sophisticated war means, they have been unable to ward off heavy punishing blows.

Artillery and aircraft, which the enemy laid heavy emphasis on, sustained serious losses. Much adverse

in other actions in Phu Tai, Nui Lo and Truong Sa Don in Da Nang area. We blew up 10,000 tons of bombs and ammunition and 8 million litres of petrol. 80 planes and thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition were destroyed by fire in the Long Binh storage compound; and 2 million shells and other cartridges of various calibres were blown up in Dong Tam.

In the first 35 days of this Spring we sent to the bottom 20 per cent more vessels and combat launches, and blasted to pieces 80 per cent more heavy artillery pieces than in the corresponding period last year.

5. Coupled with military operations, extensive and ebullient popular uprisings took place in enemy-controlled areas, from cities and towns to mountain regions. In thousands of villages, our people, among them minority nationals and religious believers, rose up impetuously, punished cruel agents, broke the enemy's control and regained mastery of their own destiny.

ized operations, such as "Atlas Wedge" and "Montana Scout" intended to save face and deceive the public only resulted in making more dead GIs and wrecked cannon and tanks left on the battlefield.

Faced with these hard realities, the U.S. has had to make an over-haul of its "clear-and-hold" strategy and defensive plans as well as its scheme to gain a "position of strength" which had taken it a lot of money and time to work out. This spells out a new strategic impasse of the U.S. aggressive army.

The onset came at a time when the U.S. puppets, mustering all their energies, had just completed an elaborate defensive plan, and were desperately using more than one million troops and millions of tons of bombs and shells to defend a few dozen hide-outs. The plan also envisaged vigorous implementation of the "accelerated pacification" program with a view to strengthening their defensive posture when turning the screw on the population. Yet, the Spring actions have compelled the enemy to make a new and significant step backward in this respect. Many areas described by the U.S. puppets as "secured" have become scenes of vehement popular uprisings which put an end to their rule.

The U.S. troops were dealt stunning blows and sustained heavy losses of lives and material just when they were resorting to a device, military, political and diplomatic, to keep down its casualties and just when Nixon and company were trying to placate the American people with honeyed words about "war expenditure cuts" and "imminent withdrawal of U.S. combat forces," etc.

The Spring setback were so disastrous for the U.S. that in the statement of the new Defence

Secretary, back from his first inspection tour of South Viet Nam: "It is not the time to talk about American troop withdrawal," one can read that U.S. withdrawal would instantly result in the collapse of the puppet army and administration. And he has called for more appropriations for the Viet Nam war.

It is beyond doubt that the successful strikes of the South Vietnamese people in 1969 Spring have worsened the U.S. puppets' plight and widened the discrepancy between their wishes and reality:

Their losses increase whereas they try to cut them.

Their position grows weaker whereas they seek a "position of strength" through a prolonged war.

The disintegration of the puppet army and administration goes on at a quicker pace while they are attempting to shore them up by dragging the war of aggression.

They squander more American lives and more American money in the process of "de-Americanizing" the war by clinging to a gang of impotent and utterly rotten puppets.

They stir up stronger popular hatred with more heinous crimes committed in the course of an effort to secure a strong political position.

They only incense the public with their endeavour to modify it.

In trying to hide its aggressive nature, the U.S. only makes it more conspicuous. The puppets seek to deny their betrayal to the country only to strengthen the popular conviction of it. Now, pressed from all sides, the U.S. and its puppets are forced to speak of peace. But, dreading genuine peace as much as they dread fire, they are frantically suppressing all movements for peace.

The Spring attacks by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have shed more light on this fact: Though having failed in their schemes, the U.S. puppets remain very stubborn. But the greater their stubbornness, the heavier their setbacks. They can in no way get out of this vicious circle. In obduracy — defeat — greater obduracy — greater defeat, till they meet with complete fiasco. Whatever their bellicosity, obduracy and craftiness, the U.S. aggressors cannot escape the workings of this implacable rule set by the 1968-1969 military situation in Viet Nam.

Secondly, the Spring successes of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have provided a more powerful impetus to the South Viet Nam revolution. They have comprehensively consolidated and strengthened the position and forces of the South Vietnamese people, increased the latter's compound punch, enhanced their resolve and confidence, their solidarity and identity of news in carrying out the thoroughly correct and very creative line of the N.F.L. to bring to complete victory the nation's great resistance to U.S. aggression.

The Spring exploits of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have supplied a further proof of the complete correctness of

their political line, strategies, tactics and activities; and further steadied their rock-like militant stand and their faith in the final victory of the revolution.

They have made it clear that the PLAF operational initiative and all-round strength are more than ever on the upgrade. The South Vietnamese people's combined force derives from their invincible people's war, from revolutionary heroism, from the inexhaustible strength of all the three kinds of people's armed forces (main force, regional troops and guerrillas) from the high tide of mass uprisings, and from the close coordination of the armed actions, the political struggle and political agitation among enemy ranks. This many-sided force has enabled the P.L.A.F. to attack the enemy anywhere, at anytime, simultaneously, on vast theatres, in sustained combat, persistently, unremittingly, in small, medium or big force battles, successfully opposing small forces to much bigger ones, and defeating the heterogeneous forces of the enemy with their selected and well-trained forces. That is why the U.S. puppets are greatly confused and utterly passive. For all their preparations, they are always caught unawares, and for all their preventive measures, they cannot forestall the onslaughts of the P.L.A.F.

All those frantic war moves of the U.S. puppets have unveiled the hypocrisy of their offer of "private talks" which in fact is but a

smokescreen for their aggressive and traitorous designs. The South Vietnamese people ward the U.S. puppets that should they prolong and enlarge the war they will meet with much heavier and more ignominious failures.

In conclusion the communique called on the entire South Vietnamese people and all their armed forces to rush forward more forcefully and to hit the enemy harder in their redoubts and get at all their forces, with the determination to frustrate all sinister schemes of the U.S. puppets, "to fight on till the U.S. quits and the puppets topple," and achieve at an early date a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, for the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

Our recent victories constitute a new lesson the U.S. puppets would do wisely to draw. The Vietnamese people are possessed of enough resolve and force to foil all strategies and tactics, all perfidious designs and all modern weapons they may have at their disposal.

The great successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in 1968 and early 1969 have created for us extremely favourable conditions paving the way for new and greater victories.

## A STERN WARNING TO THE AGGRESSORS

THE U.S. and its puppets are moving heaven and earth to extricate themselves from their hopeless situation. It is obvious that the Nixon administration is stubbornly intensifying the war of aggression. It is still unwilling to bring U.S. forces home. It is sticking to South Viet Nam and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of lackeys. The U.S. and puppets are feverishly rounding up civilians, pushing up forcible conscription and the "accelerated pacification" program, stepping up air and artillery strikes including B-52 raids to an unprecedented level against the population, thus perpetrating such atrocities as the recent wholesale murder of a thousand inhabitants of Ba Lang An area. At the same time, they are planning to extend their war to Laos and Cambodia.

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\* Heads, subheads and bold-faced emphases are ours—V.N.C.



After the PLAF capture of Saigon on the morning of May 10, 1969, US military police came to ascertain the damage caused to a vehicle park near the US Embassy.





# VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

IN THE UNITED STATES

## WIDESPREAD PROTESTS for an End to Viet Nam War

Responding to an appeal of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam, hundreds of thousands of Americans in 13 states on April 5 turned out in the streets urging a halt to the U.S. war in Viet Nam, pull-out of GIs from South Viet Nam, and restoration of peace in Viet Nam. This was the first great protest wave against the Viet Nam war since the beginning of the Nixon administration.

Participants in the demonstrations, old and young, Black and White, included ministers, clergymen, professors, anti-Viet Nam war groups, GIs on active service and demobilized army men.

In New York, about 70,000 people holding NFL flags and wearing black armbands with the inscription "I am against the war" gathered to protest the U.S. assault begun on March 19, 1968, against North Viet Nam. The demonstration was held at Madison Square Park in New York City, the largest demonstration in New York in two years. At the rally in Central Park, Richard Wright, representing the GIs, declared that the U.S. war in Viet Nam is "unmoral, and contradicts the American people's interests." Howard Zinn, Professor of Boston University, said that the American people must urge Washington to stop this "barbaric and unjust war." A record speech of congratulation from Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, deputy head of the NLF Delegation to the Paris Conference, was played back.

In San Francisco, 20,000 people, Black and White, paraded through the city behind a NFL flag.

In Chicago, defying the presence of over 500 police men, nearly 50,000 demonstrators marched for a hour in what UPI described as "the first large-scale demonstration since President Nixon took office."

In Atlanta, more than 2,500 people staged a protest march against the Viet Nam war.

In Philadelphia, several hundred people spent the day outside the recruiting office calling through a loud-speaker the names of GIs killed in Viet Nam.

Meetings and parades also broke out in several cities in Florida and Pennsylvania. A demonstration was held near Nixon's country house in Florida to protest draft.

On the second day of the new anti-Viet Nam war drive

in the United States, Americans in about 30 cities, mainly on the West Coast, held demonstrations and meetings for an end to the US aggression in Viet Nam.

In New York, 40,000 people demonstrated in a march led by David Dellinger, chairman of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam.

In Chicago, over 20,000 people took part in what was described as "the biggest march in the history of Chicago."

In Washington where the strictest measures had been taken to ban demonstrations in front of the White House, a large number of protesters defied police from other cities, met at Marjorie Square then marched on the White House.

In San Francisco, some 20,000 people, including servicemen, marched three miles from the city center to the Golden Gate Bridge, where they gathered for a rally on October 27. U.S. soldiers staged a sit-in protest against the aggression in Viet Nam for which they were charged with mutiny and detained at the camp prison. The demonstrators carried signs reading "Smash US imperialism," "Stop the war now!" and demanding the release of 27 detained soldiers.

In Los Angeles, 5,000 people took part in a protest parade and rally at MacArthur Park in the downtown area.

In Atlanta, Georgia, thousands of Black and White people took part in a demonstration sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Southern Wide Mobilization Committee against the War in Viet Nam.

Other anti-war demonstrations broke out at Seattle, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Honolulu.

On April 6, 26 American poets of renown raised their voices against the Viet Nam war and declared their full support for those American youths who refuse to take part in this unjust war.

Paul O'Dwyer, a well-known personality of the Democratic Party, told newsmen that the anti-war demonstrations on April 5 and 6 only marked the beginning of the massive marches for peace in Viet Nam scheduled to be held throughout the country.

OK plane made a last circle over Copenhagen and carried us away from Seeland, bringing to a close our three-day visit to Denmark. Waving our hands, we bade farewell to its many hundred picturesque islands which gradually came out of our sight. During our stay in that far-off land, what attracted us most was not its beautiful scenery but the diverse, vivid manifestations of sincere friendship felt by the Communist Party, the working class and Danish progressives for our country and our people.

Despite their huge propaganda machine and its strenuous efforts, the American imperialists cannot distort the truth about their dirty war of aggression. Wherever we went, we virtually met no Danish

pro-war hearts and minds of Danish progressives. The call where the 23rd Congress of the Danish Communist Party held its session had no other decorations than the flags of Denmark, of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the South Viet National Front for Liberation. The first problem raised by the political report of the Party Central Committee was Viet Nam, and the first point in the resolution of the Congress was also Viet Nam. The only message to the world's revolutionary people and unanimously approved by the Congress was the one sent to the heroic people of Viet Nam. The addresses of the representatives of our Party and the NFL were greeted by storms of applause. The delegates chanted "Viet Nam!" "Ho! Ho Chi Minh!" "shoots which resounded in the very heart

of the boy answered most naturally.

Everybody burst out laughing.

As we were preparing to leave for the airport on our home trip, three young men called on us. Twenty year of age at most, they were mechanics working on a liner. They had come to Copenhagen from an island in the Baltic, hundreds of miles away, in the thick of winter, and had been moving heaven and earth to contact us and hand over 2,000 kroner they had saved. No small sum indeed for young workers who had just served their apprenticeship! More significantly, it carried the weight of the Danish working class' lofty feelings for Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people.

While following the developments in our country, Danish progressive paid

## Three Days in DENMARK

by HONG NGA

progressive who did not feel indignant at the atrocities committed by the Yankee in both parts of our country. They all closely followed our resistance and obviously enjoyed every thing in its power to launch a widespread movement among the broad people in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation until total victory.

From the towns to the countryside, a stirring drive is now unfolding for the collection of a million kroner, medicines, medical appliances, clothing material, etc., to aid fighting Viet Nam. Over 30 mass organizations bearing different names, which have emerged one after another, undertake to inform wide popular strata of the horrible crimes the Yankees have perpetrated and the just cause we are fighting for. The first concern of Danish progressives is how with the least material raising drive, to help us as much as they can, to satisfy the most effective needs in the fighting and in production. From the Free Viet Nam Committee and the Ecclesiastical Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, the latter, the Danes have lately set up the 1969 Viet Nam Committee intended to rally still more adherents and step up for our people the material and moral support called for by the new situation.

In Copenhagen as at Roskilde, at East Gate Hotel as in the Danish capital suburbs, we were welcomed by our friends as combatants back from the front line. Our struggle for the defence of the Fatherland, just as the revolutionary activities of President Ho Chi Minh, have

of Copenhagen as a clarion sounding the charge. Comrade Kine Jespersen, President of the Communist Party, solemnly declared before the resistance and obviously enjoyed every thing in its power to launch a widespread movement among the broad people in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation until total victory.

Pictures of President Ho Chi Minh and flags of the DRVN and the NFL can be seen everywhere. They appear in mass meetings in which people affirm their solidarity with our resistance to U.S. aggression, in political teach-ins on Viet Nam staged by workers, youths and students, in street corner exhibitions to show glimpses of fighting Viet Nam. These meetings in the Fatherland can be found on badges worn by women veterans aboard Danish ocean liners.

Of course, three days were far from enough to acquaint ourselves with a country of some 4 million souls, from our ears, and to understand its people. Seeing and hearing men and women in short a time, is just like a saying of ours goes, "scampering through a flower garden. But the vivid manifestation of heartfelt friendship we saw in our visit to Denmark and our interviews with its Communist Party have made the meaning of these unforgettable verses by the French poet, Paul Verlaine, sink deeper into our minds:

Though thousands of miles apart, we live under the same roof

Proletarians everywhere are brothers.

Here is the story Tam Kien told me that night: "It was in mid-February 1967. After breaking an uneasy sleep, blowing up two armoured cars and killing seventeen GIs, we were ordered to withdraw as fresh American troops and armoured units were brought in. I was in the rear with my first-aid kit. A bullet struck me in the thigh. I was dead but was soon found by a search party. Two agents of the Americans, Lam and Khoi, recognized my movements and sent me to a prison in Hoi An. There patriots were detained, tortured, murdered, often in the most horrible fashion: American agents smashed their skulls with a sledgehammer, used targets for shooting practice or threw them in the nearby river after ripping their bellies open and filling them with stones.

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# The Young Nurse

Huynh Thi Kien, 21, was a nurse with a guerrilla unit in Dien Ban district (25 km south of Da Nang). Caught by the enemy in February 1967, she showed great courage under the most savage tortures. U.S.-puppet agents twice tried to cut off her leg. The following story recounts their barbarous attempts.

(Editor's note)

I spent that night in a field hospital in the middle of the jungle. Although overcome with fatigue, I kept tossing in my bed and couldn't sleep.

At one point late at night, I heard light footsteps and a little clinking sound. In the hazy light of a candle I saw a young nurse limping down the underground passage; she was leaning on a crutch and holding in her hand a small satchel containing little glass or metal objects, probably syringes and needles. She stopped at the bedside of a wounded soldier and gently woke him up to give him an injection. As she limped past my bed after finishing, I looked at her round, chubby face and slant eyes and thought I recognized her. I sat up and asked her point-blank, "Are you Tam Kien? You worked as a nurse with the Dien Ban guerrillas, didn't you?"

She stopped and tried to place me. "Oh, San, I should have said I like you, come with joy. Then looking suddenly embarrassed, she began tracing little figures on the ground with the tip of her crutch. She had noticed the painful expression on my face as I involuntarily looked at her wooden leg. I gently asked her to sit down and have a talk.

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full of soapy liquids to be poured onto the victims' nostrils... In the middle of the room was a plank-bed fitted with iron rings to immobilize the victim's limbs. Five or six butcher's knives were lying about, next to wooden pillows stained with dry blood.

Lam, Khoi and two thugs came into the room, followed by two Americans. Khoi gave me a cold stare and suddenly punched me on the forehead, knocking me to the ground. I had two front teeth broken and my mouth was filled with blood.

Then his confederate Lam tried the "soft" technique. He leaned over and said in a persuasive voice, "Talk, girl. You're so young. Why give your life to the Vietcong?"

I was nineteen. At my age, who would not value life? But I decided not to bow my head before the enemy. "Yes, I want to live, I should like to live like you, in ingnomy, licking American boots and torturing your fellow-countrymen."

Khoi seized a knife and brandished it in my face. "We'll make you talk all right, wench! Put her in the rack, boys," he bellowed. His eyes were bloodshot and his forehead beaded with sweat.

The four of them brutally took hold of me, stripped me of my clothes, flung me on the plank-bed and immobilized my wrists and ankles with the iron rings. One viciously squeezed my injured leg, which gave me a terrible pain. Khoi tossed his knife at my feet and barked, "Where has your unit gone? Where are your caches? We'll make you talk all right, wench! Put her in the rack, boys," he bellowed. His eyes were bloodshot and his forehead beaded with sweat.

Again, Lam tried the "soft" technique. "Talk," he said, "and we won't beat you. These gentlemen will even give you money." He looked at the Americans and gave an obsequious laugh. The Yanks nodded approvingly.

I spat blood at their faces and cried, "You're wasting your time and effort. Yankee aggressors, get out!"

Khoi, mad with rage, rushed forward, seized the knife and gave a violent blow to my leg. A terrible pain shot up through my whole body. My throat choked and my eyes filled with tears.

A doctor came in and tried to intervene. "Why be so cruel to a young girl," he pleaded. Put her in jail if she is guilty of some offense." A violent blow struck him in the chest. "Get out!" shouted Khoi. Breathing hard, he turned to me: "Will you speak?" Again, I said, "No."

Khoi again struck my leg with his knife. The others also joined in. Writting with pain, I felt my leg being gradually cut off from my body. The torturers were howling and their American "advisers" guffawing uproariously....

When I came to, a nurse was looking after me. She was a gentle and compassionate woman. Each day, she washed my wounds and changed the bandages. From time to time she would give me, on the sly, an injection of plasma. But soon she was replaced by a male nurse, of the torturer kind. He treated me in the most vicious way, causing me the most intolerable pain each time he "dressed" my wounds.

After three weeks, seeing that I had recovered some of my strength, the thugs again sought to extort information from me. They subjected me to electrical shocks or thrust clips of sharpened cartridges into my ribs. I clenched my teeth and called to mind the heroic examples set by Nguyen Van Troi and Tran Thi Ly, those revolutionaries who had faced enemy tortures so fearlessly.

One day in the fifth week after my arrest, my friend the nurse suddenly turned up. Her anguished look was a bad presage. She leaned over, kissed me in the forehead and whispered in my ear after looking right and left. "They want to make away with you, or at least to cut your other leg so that you will no more be able to serve the revolution." A quietly went away after slipping a trench and killed me with hand grenades. In Tam Ky district, same province, an old woman at Vinh Binh was bayoneted to death: 11 people at Ky Anh Tay including the one hung up by American troops for 4 days to serve as targets — and 7 others, including two children at Vinh Giang hamlet, were also murdered. In Thanh Phuoc district, also in Quang Nam province, 20 people at Phuoc Loc were massacred (11 of them were thrown into a trench and buried by hand grenades).

In addition to these sadistic

crucifixion, walked up to them and tried to intervene. "Why be so cruel to a young girl," he pleaded. Put her in jail if she is guilty of some offense." A violent blow struck him in the chest. "Get out!" shouted Khoi. Breathing hard, he turned to me: "Will you speak?" Again, I said, "No."

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was dead, my friend the nurse and some of her colleagues succeeded in saving my life. A few days later, the local people freed me and took me to the liberated area, where I was sent to a hospital. When I had recovered, the comrades in charge told me I was exempted from all work but how could I remain idle while the Yanks and their agents are still there? And so I've volunteered to serve in this hospital....

The young nurse stopped and smiled. She had remained the shy and gentle girl I used to know. As I looked at her childlike face, my heart was overwhelmed by deep feelings: respect, love, and pride.

HUYNH TAM

## US-Puppets' Crimes in South Viet Nam

(Continued from page 2)

### Murders of Civilians

THE U.S.-puppet systematic massacre of South Vietnamese has just been denounced by a *Giay Phang* newspaper report.

On February 12, in Phong Dan hamlet, Binh Nam village, Thanh Binh district, Quang Nam province, ten elderly people between 40 and 77 years of age, and a pregnant woman were driven into a trench and killed by hand grenades. In Tam Ky district, same province, an old woman at Vinh Binh was bayoneted to death: 11 people at Ky Anh Tay including the one hung up by American troops for 4 days to serve as targets — and 7 others, including two children at Vinh Giang hamlet, were also murdered. In Thanh Phuoc district, also in Quang Nam province, 20 people at Phuoc Loc were massacred (11 of them were thrown into a trench and buried by hand grenades).

In addition to these sadistic

crimes, odious bombardments were made against the civilians. On the nights of March 15, 16 and 18, 1968 carpet bombing was carried out in Hoa Duc Hue districts, about thirty kilometers east of Saigon. Five days later, March 23, My Quy Tay village, Duc Hue district, was also hit by raiders.

In Long Khanh province, U.S. bombs and shells destroyed on March 15, 16 and 17 over 120 houses in Dong Dinh hamlet, Dinh Giang district. The killing about twenty people.

A Spraying of chemical products have also been reported by *Giay Phang* U.S. Agents on 5 villages of Long An province with, as a result, hundreds of hectares of ricefields and orchards devastated, and in a village, in Cao Lanh district, Kien Phong province where U.S. bombings and shells also took place.

# THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

## Military Operations

### Enemy Substantial Losses in Tay Ninh and Quang Tri Thua Thien Region

— In 5 days, 500 enemy troops killed or wounded, 12 choppers downed, 37 vehicles destroyed and 6 companies wiped out in Tay Ninh province.

— South of Khe Sanh and West of Hue, 550 adverse soldiers and 5 U.S. platoons put out of action, 8 aircraft grounded, 7 armoured cars destroyed in a week.

— A police station near the puppet "Senate" meeting-hall destroyed by Saigon guerrillas.

#### TAY NINH AND MEKONG DELTA

The PLAF were particularly active in Tay Ninh province at the end of March and beginning of April.

On the night of March 25, the military training centre at Ben Khe, 50 km northwest of Saigon, was bombarded and 200 enemy troops including 80 killed or wounded, 6 cannons destroyed, while at Ninh Dien and Thanh Dien, southwest of Tay Ninh, 2 puppet para battalions had 4 companies wiped out or decimated. Seven helicopters were downed on March 29 and 30.

On the night of April 2, on the Tay Ninh - Don Tieng road, near Cau Khot, a dozen kilometres east of Ben Khe, an armoured vehicle park was stormed: 1 infantry company and 1 battalion CP wiped out, 28 tanks and armoured cars destroyed. Meanwhile at Ninh Dien, a

dozen kilometres west of Ben Khe, 2 puppet para battalions were violently interceded. After 30 minutes' fierce fighting, the PLAF wiped out 3 companies of Battalion 7 and depleted a company of Battalion 5.

On April 5, near Tra Co, a tax camp, 55 kilometres west-northwest of Saigon came under heavy fire: 350 GI casualties and loss of 9 military vehicles, 3 ordnance pieces and 5 choppers.

Western sources reported that on March 8 last, the puppet paratroopers had lost at least 70 men in an engagement with the PLAF in that province.

Besides, according to Gai Phong Press Agency, between March 25 and April 2, the provincial armed forces claimed a considerable total of adverse lives and materials: 1,600 men put out of action, 60 vehicles (39 armoured cars) destroyed, 14 choppers downed and 4 patrol-boats sunk.

In these unsets, the enemy armoured car park about 50 km northwest of Saigon near Trang Hong, was hit: 31 vehicles (18 armoured cars) wrecked, 200 men killed or wounded, a chopper brought down.

In Saigon, on April 3, at 7:20 a.m. a PLAF self-defence unit broke into a police station defending the meeting hall of the so-called "Senate" and put out of action all the policemen there.

In the Mekong delta, the enemy started on March 20 a big operation in Long My and Vinh Thuan districts about 200 km southwest of Saigon; up to March 29 he had 1500 men killed or wounded and 39 war vessels sunk or burnt.

About 100 km northwest, in the region called Seven Mountains, the patriotic forces between March 20 and 26, inflicted over 400 casualties on the enemy.

## Puppet Troops' Anti War Actions and Massive Desertions

**B**ETWEEN February 23, and March 10, 1969, there were hundreds of anti-war actions and desertions among the Saigon puppet troops.

— In the provinces bordering on Saigon such as Long An (southwest), Tay Ninh (northwest), Gia Dinh (north of Saigon), anti-war actions took place in Battalion 2, Regiment 46, and Battalion 2, Regiment 49, puppet Infantry Division 25, stationed at Long An. Ten battalions of Regiment 49 disobeyed raiding orders and there by baffled many military operations. Company 2, Battalion 2, Regiment 46 five times refused to fight though pressure was brought to bear on them by the COs, soldiers of security companies and 3 civil-guard companies in Long An opposed the war and 100 soldiers deserted their ranks.

— At Tay Ninh puppet Ranger companies 344 and 345 foiled a planned raid by shooting dead a company commander, wounding another and crossing over to the side of the NFL in full kits (the deserters included two platoon commanders and a group leader). Meanwhile in the same province, 100 soldiers left the ranks of the puppet army.

In Gia Dinh, 3 security companies resisted orders to round up civilians and set fire to their houses. In Cu Chi district alone (40 km northwest of Saigon), 120 men broke away from the puppet army (80 regular troops of puppet Division 5).

— In 6 provinces in the Mekong delta from 60 to 180 km south and southwest of

In the Plain of Reels, near Moc Hoa, 95 km west of Saigon, on the night of March 30, an enemy flotilla was intercepted on the Western Vam Co river: 2 vessels set ablaze, about one hundred enemy troops killed or wounded. The last two PLAF shellings of Binh Duc (near My Tho) base of US Infantry Division 9 on March 21 and 26 are reported by G.P.A. to have caused 250 American casualties and destroyed 16 choppers' vehicles and set aflame 10 ammunition dumps and food stores.

#### CENTRAL TRUNG BO

**I**N Duc Pho region, 160 km south-southwest of Da Nang, nearly 450 enemy troops (300 GIs of Brigade 11 "American" Division) were put out of action on March 26 and 29.

Farther south, near Quy Nhon, on March 23 a legio-

tion base was set on fire: the explosions shook the neighbouring areas the whole night and smoke rose hundreds of metres high into the sky: 3 shell depots and 2 stores of chemical products were blotted out.

In the Western High Plateau, in Kontum province, a battalion of US Infantry Division 4, was intercepted 43 km west-northwest of the provincial on April 5 and had a company and a platoon wiped out and another company decimated.

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, north of South Viet Nam, the PLAF hit hard at the enemy (chiefly GIs) in three sectors: north of Dong Ha near the DMZ, south of Khe Sanh and a 30 region. The enemy had, between April and 7, at least 550 men killed or wounded, 8 aircraft downed and 7 tanks and armoured cars destroyed.

— In My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, Cao Lanh, Moc Hoa, Chau Doc, from March 23 to March 4, 1969, 2700 cases of desertion (including 110 from Division 7) were reported.

The affected units were Battalion 3, Regiment 11 and Battalion 1, Regiment 12 of puppet Division 7 stationed at My Tho town, Battalion 1, Regiment 10, Division 7, at Ben Tre town, the Tran Quoc Toan military training center (Kien Phong), a Ranger unit in Cao Lanh and other outfits. Some of the dissenters went after killing their commanders.

— In 6 provinces southwest of the Mekong river (Saigon): Rach Gia, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, there were in the same period over 9,000 cases of desertion among the regular troops, security men and "fighting youth", civil-guard and "pacification" agents.

Most remarkable was the anti-war action of Battalion 2 and 3, Regiment 34, puppet Division 21 in Can Tho. The soldiers in these two battalions threw away their weapons and uniforms; some of them inflicted wounds on themselves and went to oppose their commanders' orders to go for a raid. In Can Tho, there were 500 deserters among the regular troops, security and home-guard units.

In Rach Gia, a whole company of "fighting youth" deserted, leaving behind their weapons. In Vinh Long, 160 soldiers joined the NFL with weapons in a anti-war action staged by two regular puppet

battalions and 3 security companies which refused to raid the two southern

In the provinces of Tra Vinh, Ca Mau and Soc Trang, in addition to isolated cases of desertion and deserters, around Ca Mau town and of many soldiers of Battalion 1, Regiment 33, stationed at Soc Trang town.

— Da Nang region: Quang Nam province recorded the desertion of 550 men of 4 civil-guard platoons of a regular section. Many puppet army units stationed at Tam Ky (60 km southeast of Da Nang) set fire to an M113 armoured car and a military store of puppet.

In Kontum, 100 km southwest of Da Nang, war protest of security company 897 created a stir in the district capital of Duc Tho and forced the American advisor and puppet commanders to cancel a complete operation.

In Binh Thuan, 380 km southeast of Da Nang, two other actions occurred in companies 1 and 3, Battalion 4, Regiment 53. Soldiers of Company 1 wounded the lieutenant commanding the company, forcing him to call off the raid. Soldiers of Company 3 killed their commander. A number of soldiers in these two companies deserted.

The anti-war actions and desertions which have been happening interruptedly in the puppet army since the PLAF onslaught on Feb. 23 are clear indications of a low morale and relaxed discipline of the puppet army.

#### Latest News

### TWO ENEMY AMMUNITION DUMPS AT TAY NINH BLOWN UP BY PLAF SHELLING

**W**ESTERN agencies reported that, among the 45 targets bombarded by the PLAF on the night of April 10, an ammunition depot in the military sector CP and another one near the airfield of the town had been hit. An AP correspondent said that these explosions went on 12 hours after the shelling and one hundred Yankees and quiltings (including the chief of the province) were wounded and 80 others reported missing. The sector CP administrative offices, barracks and American officials' quarters were destroyed.